7020221/2023/VIG-I-PRR01

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

PS – PR and RD Department – Tampering of M.Books under Food for Work Programme in Balijapeta (M), Vizianagaram District - Disciplinary proceedings and charged framed against Sri U.Y.Ratnam, the then MEO/ AEE, Balijapeta Mandal – Held proved – Imposed a penalty of withholding of three (3) annual grade increments with cumulative effect besides recovery of Rs. Rs.5,06,301/- in lumpsum at bank rate + 2% as per Article 300 of A.P. Financial Code, Volume-I – Judgment of Hon'ble High Court of A.P. dt: 11.10.2022 in WP No. 7493 of 2022 – Implementation and conducting elaborate enquiry – Superintending Engineer, PR, Vizianagaram and Executive Engineer, PR, Parvatipuram Division have been appointed as Inquiry Officer and Presenting Officer respectively – Orders – Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (VIG.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.68 **Dated.17.02.2023.**

Read the following:-

1. From the ENC, PR, AP, Letter No. Vig. I(1)/50341/05, dt: 28.05.2012.
2. G.O.Rt.No.446, PR&RD (Vig. I) Department, Dt: 05.05.2015.
3. Sri U.V.Ratnam, MEO/AEE, MP, Makkavu (M), Vizianagaram District, written statement of defence dt: 02.02.2016.
4. G.O.Rt.No.271, PR&RD (Vig. I) Department, dt: 17.03.2016.
5. From the ENC,PR, Letter No. Vig I(1)/50341/2005, Dt: 24.07.2017 along with inquiry report of SE,PR, Vizianagaram dt: 20.02.2017.
6. Govt. Memo No. 13275/Vig. I/2012, PR&RD (Vig. I) Dept, dt: 05.02.2018.
7. From Sri U.V.Ratnam, MEO/AEE, MPP, Makuva Mandal, Vizianagaram District, representation dt: 24.4.2018.
8. G.O.Rt.NO. 686, P.R. & R.D (Vig. I) Department, Dt: 27.12.2021.
9. Proceedings NO. A1/UVR/2013, dt: 08.03.2022 of the Superintending Engineer, PR Circle, Eluru.
10. Orders of Hon'ble High Court dt: 11.10.2022 in WP NO. 7493 of 2022 filed by Sri U. Yesu Ratnam, former MEO, Balijapeta Mandal, Vizianagram District and presently working as MEO, MPP, Seetanagram on OD Basis.

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O R D E R:

In the reference 2nd read above, Government have framed following article of charge against Sri U.V.Ratnam, Mandal Engineering Officer / Assistant Executive Engineer, MPP, Balijapeta

PTO.,

Mandal, Vizianagarm District, under Rule 20 of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991 with a direction to submit his written statement of defence,

Charge :

That Sri U.Y.Ratnam while working as Mandal Engineering Officer Balijapeta of Vijayanagaram District has committed certain grave irregularities in the works taken up under FFWP and tampered the recordings in M.Books by adding/recording extra measurements in between specified lines of M.Books with different inks and violated Codal Rules. Thus he had not performed his legitimate duties and mis-utilized his official position and caused financial loss an amount of Rs.5,06,301/- to the state exchequer.

2. In the reference 3rd read above, the Charged Officer has submitted his written statement of defence. As the same is not convincing, Government have decided to conduct inquiry against the Charged Officer Sri U.V. Ratnam, MEO among others. Accordingly, in the reference 4th read above, Government have appointed the Superintending Engineer, PR, Vizianagaram as Inquiry Officer under Rule 20 (2) of A.P.C.S (CC&A) Rules, 1991 to conduct inquiry against the charge framed against the charged officer Sri U.Y. Rantam, the then MEO, Balijapeta, among others. The Executive Engineer, PR, Parvathipuram Division, has been appointed as Presenting Officer under Rule 20 (5) of above said rules to present the case before the Inquiry Officer on behalf of disciplinary authority, therein.

3. In the reference 5th read above, the Superintending Engineer, PR, Vizianagaram and Inquiry Officer has furnished inquiry report dt: 20.02.2017 and held that charge against the Charged Officer Sri U. Y. Ratnam, the then MEO, is held proved, among others. A copy of the inquiry report has been communicated to the charged officer and the Charged Officer has submitted his representation vide reference 7th read above.

4. After examination of the matter and following due procedure, Government vide reference 8th read above, have imposed a penalty of withholding of three (3) annual grade increments with cumulative effect against Sri U.Y. Ratnam, the then Mandal Engineering Officer / Assistant Executive Engineer, PR, Balijapeta Mandal, Vizianagaram District under Rule 9 (vi) of A.P.C.S (CC&A) Rules 1991, besides recovery of Rs.5,06,301/- in lumpsum from him at Bank Rate + 2% as per Article 300 of A.P. Financial Code (Volume- I) in the matter.

5. In the reference 9th read above, the Superintending Engineer, PR Circle, Eluru have issue proceedings to recovery total amount of Rs.8,01,999 (ie, total loss + interest) and imposing stoppage of (3)

Contd..at P.3.,

increments with cumulative effect with effect for three (3) years from 18.06.2022 to 18.06.2024 against Sri U.Y. Ratnam, former Mandal Engineering Officer, Balijapeta, Vizianagaram and working as Assistant Executive Engineer, MPP, Seetanagaram, OD Basis.

6. In the reference 10th read above, the Hon'ble High Court of A.P., vide their orders dt: 11.10.2022 in W.P. No. 7493 of 2022 fled by Sri U.Y. Ratnam, former MEO, Mabalijapeta, Vizianagaram and working as AEE, MPP, Seetanagaram, OD Basis, has delivered judgment, as follows : :

> " Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case and submissions of the both the counsel, the impugned proceedings in Prog.NO.A1/UVR/2013, dt: 08.03.2022 passed by the 3rd Respondent against the petitioner is hereby set aside and the matter is remanded to the 3rd respondent to conduct elaborate enquiry in accordance with law, within a period of eight (08) weeks from the date of receipt of copy of this order.
>
> Accordingly, the writ petition is disposed of. No costs. As a sequel, interlocutory applications, if any pending, shall stand closed.

7. Government after careful examination of the matter have taken decision to implement the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of A.P., dt: 10.11.2022 in W.P.No. 7493 of 2022 and to conduct fresh enquiry as per Rule 20 (2) of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991 by directing the earlier Enquiry Officer ie, Superintending Engineer, PR, Vizianagaram (appointed by designation) to conduct fresh inquiry and also directing the earlier Presenting Officer ie, Executive Engineer, PR, Parvatipuram Division (appointed by designation) to present the case as Presenting Officer in the matter..

8. Accordingly, Government hereby direct the Superintending Engineer, PR, Vizianagaram to conduct fresh inquiry into the charges framed against Sri U. Yesu Ratnam, former MEO, Balijapeta Mandal (presently working as MEO/AEE, MPP, Seetanagaram on OD Basis) vide reference 2nd read above duly examining all the documents and witnesses and also by giving opportunity to the applicant to cross examine all the documents and the witnesses and to examine witnesses and mark documents on his behalf and as per procedure laid down in Rule 20 (2) of A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991, as pointed out by the Hon'ble High Court in their orders dt: 11.10.2022 in WP No. 7493 of 2022 (ie., principle of nature justice) and furnish his inquiry report **by 05.03.2023** to Government in the matter.

9. The Executive Engineer, PR, Parvatipuram Division also directed to present the case as Presenting Officer before the Inquiry Officer as per the procedure under Rule 20 (5) of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991 in the matter.

PTO.,

10. The Charged Officer also directed to cooperate with the inquiry proceedings whenever summoned by the Inquiry Authority and Presenting Officer in the matter.

11. The Engineer-in-Chief, Panchayat Raj , AP, Vijayawada is also requested to pursue the matter with Inquiry Officer and Presenting Officer and see that the inquiry report is reached to Government within the above time in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

B. RAJSEKHAR
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Superintending Engineer, Panchayat Raj, Vizianagram & Inquiry Officer (w.e)
The Executive Engineer, PR, Parvatipuram Division & Presenting Officer (w.e)

Sri U.Y. Ratnam, the then M.E.O. / A.E.E, Balijapeta Mandal, Vizianagaram District and presently working as MEO/AEE, MPP, Seetanagaram on OD Basis
through Engineer in Chief, Panchayat Raj, A.P., Vijayawada

The Engineer in Chief, Panchayat Raj, A.P., Vijayawada
(with a request to serve the order on the individual and furnish the dated acknowledgment copy urgently)

Copy to:
The Superintending Engineer, Panchayat Raj Circle, Eluru
The Secretary to Vigilance Commission, Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, Velagapudi.
The Government Pleader for Services-IV, A.P.High Court, Amaravati.
The P.R. & R.D (Estt.I) Department.
The PS to Spl.CS to Govt, PR&RD. Dept.
Sf/Sc.

//FORWARDED::BY::ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER